CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 40 – The Church Grows Once More, 1500 to Present

1. *The Growth of the Church*
   a. *The first period of great growth of the Church was from the year 1 to 400, from Pentecost to Augustine*
   b. *The second period of great growth was, roughly speaking, from the year 500 to 1000. In that period the Church conquered the new uncivilized heathen nations of northern Europe*
   c. *After the year 1000 the Church lost much additional territory in the East to the Turkish Muslims; From 1000 to 1500, roughly speaking, the Church made no new conquests*
2. *Exploration Opens the World to the Church*
   a. *The voyages of discovery radically altered the entire situation. They changed the oceans from barriers into highways. And that change made it possible for the Church to get around the Muslim barrier*
   b. *The Muslims, on the other hand, have in the meanwhile gained considerable heathen territory in Africa*
3. *The Catholics Do Mission Work*
   a. *The Reformation started in 1517. Up to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 the Protestants were completely occupied with their struggle with the Catholics. So for the first 150 years of the new missionary era the Roman Catholic Church had the newly opened mission fields all to itself*
   b. *Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Order of Jesuits, was the man who aroused the Catholic Church to a sense of its missionary duty and opportunity*
   c. *Inspired by Loyola, Francis Xavier became the first great Catholic missionary of the new era. In 1542 Xavier reached Goa in India, where he labored until 1549, when he went to Japan*
   d. *Spanish missionaries won the Philippines, South and Central America, and Mexico for the Catholic Church. French Jesuits established the Catholic Church in the province of Quebec in Canada, around the Great Lakes, and down the Mississippi River into Louisiana. Spanish missionaries also built up Catholic churches in Florida and along the coast in California*
4. *The Protestants Spread the Gospel*
   a. *The first great impulse to the work of missions by Protestants in the new era was given by August Francke and the Pietists*
   b. *Their greatest missionary was Christian Schwartz, who from 1750 until his death in 1798 labored in India. From 1732 to the present day Moravian missionaries have carried on missionary work with utmost devotion in every part of the world*
   c. *In. 1792 Carey organized the first Baptist missionary society and in 1793 he and his family sailed for India. Neither the loss of all his goods nor the opposition of the British East India Company daunted him in the establishment of a mission. His greatest work was the translation of the Bible, in whole or in part, either alone or with others, into some twenty-six Indian languages*
   d. *The Christian Church is being planted in Africa, India, Korea, Japan, South America, and the islands of the Pacific*
5. *Missionary Results*
   a. *The work of missions, strictly speaking, consists in nothing else but in the preaching of the Gospel*
   b. *Many missionaries have lacked the necessary qualifications. There was a time when it was thought that men who lacked the ability to become good ministers could nevertheless work successfully on the mission field. Today it is realized that a missionary must have fully as much knowledge and ability as a minister, besides specialized knowledge and talents not required of the minister who works in his homeland. The missionary must learn to understand the people to whom he brings the Gospel; especially must he know their language, their history, their customs, and above all their religion*
   c. *The vast majority of people to whom the missionaries preach are suspicious of another culture. Some cannot read or write. Some are superstitious. Then, too, like people the world over, they may have a dislike for foreigners; and missionaries are usually foreigners in the lands where they work*
   d. *We must also remember that others, like us, want to cling to the religion of their fathers. We love to sing, "Faith of our fathers, we will be true to thee till death." We are not willing to give up the faith that our fathers have taught us. So, too, non- Christians are not readily willing to give up the religious beliefs that their fathers have taught them. Only the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts can cause them to give up their traditional beliefs and accept the Gospel of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus*
   e. *Another difficulty is that non-Christians often gain wrong ideas regarding Christianity by observing so-called Christians from Christian lands, who are really not Christian, and by coming to our universities and learning the religion of the Modernists who falsely claim to be preaching the Gospel of Christ*